

Mr. Speaker, the Pet and Women Safety Act now enjoys the bipartisan support of 237 of our colleagues. I encourage every Member of Congress to add their name to this legislation, and I ask our leadership to bring H.R. 909 for a vote.

THE DEBT BETRAYAL

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, Tea Party Republicans were swept into office on a passionate plea to eliminate the deficit, to reduce the national debt, and to not pass on a great fiscal burden to our children.

Upon election, they boldly formed the Freedom Caucus, the fiscal watchdogs of the House. At the time, the national debt, in 2010, was \$13 trillion, and many were deeply concerned about our Nation's fiscal situation, and they made a promise to do everything in their power to rein in wasteful spending and to get government's fiscal House in order.

Now here we are in 2017, after nearly 7 years of a Republican-controlled Congress, and the debt is over \$20 trillion. That is 7 years of a Republican-controlled Congress and \$7 trillion in additional debt.

Now we have a tax giveaway of an additional \$2.5 trillion to pass on to our children. I ask all the so-called fiscal conservatives in this Chamber, all the so-called Freedom Caucus members, where is your big talk about the debt now? Is your desire to claim a victory worth betraying your deepest principles forever?

THE GREATEST ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the greatest anti-poverty program in all of human history: the free enterprise system. Maybe the most remarkable achievement in human history is the fact that, over the last 40 years, about 80 percent of the world's worst poverty has been eliminated.

We know the right combination of smart investments in things like research, education, infrastructure, and defense; fewer burdensome regulations; and simpler and fairer taxes creates the perfect environment for growth and innovation.

So far this year, we have secured investments in things like boosting programs for early childhood education and Head Start, and medical research at the NIH. We have done away with job-killing regulations, saving hard-working Americans billions in compliance costs and millions of hours in paperwork.

Now we have the opportunity to reform our Tax Code to help millions of Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, help small businesses create millions of new jobs, and help millions rise out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act. Let's get tax reform done and get tax relief to those who need it the most.

BRING UP THE DREAM ACT

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there are so many different issues. We are talking about tax reform, but I want to go back to an issue we have talked about for several months now, and that is the DREAMers.

I rise today to call on the House leadership to bring up the Dream Act. The DREAMers who came to this country as children were brought by their parents for a chance to pursue the American Dream.

These young Americans go to our colleges and universities. They are our teachers and doctors and serve in the military, and we cannot afford to upend the lives and dreams of these 800,000 DACA recipients—people like Andres, a DREAMer who lives in my district. He came to this country as a child, and America is the only home he knows. He attends school here, earned his associate's degree, and became a building engineer. He built his personal relationships in our country and contributes every day to our society. His work, his friends and family are all in the United States. It would be a cruel mistake to force him to give all that up and send him back to a country he doesn't know.

Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans support the DACA program. It is our responsibility to the American people and to the hundreds of thousands of young DREAMers in this country to pass the Dream Act now.

Mr. Speaker, we should do so as soon as we can.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORRECT AND NECESSARY DECERTIFICATION OF THE JCPOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, President Trump decertified the Iran nuclear deal. Tonight, during this hour, several Members of Congress will be speaking here on the House floor about the President's correct and necessary decertification, and discussing the urgent need to address Iran's problematic nuclear and non-nuclear activities.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA, otherwise known as the Iran nuclear deal, is deeply flawed and very one-sided for what is in it, and it is fatally flawed and deeply one-sided for what is not in it.

The so-called deal props up the wrong regime in Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terror, with a jackpot of \$150 billion of sanctions relief.

The United States made a slew of permanent concessions in exchange for temporary concessions on the part of the Iranians—a point that comes into greater focus as the sunset provisions are analyzed.

This deal is not a pathway for how to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, it is a blueprint for exactly how Iran can acquire a nuclear weapon.

We can and must do better. President Obama said this agreement was not built on trust, it was built on verification. I am still waiting for an answer on how you can support a deal based on verification without knowing what the verification regime is.

The verification agreement between the IAEA and Iran still hasn't been submitted to Congress, and Secretary Kerry has admitted that he never read it.

We have learned, though, that Iran collects some of their own soil samples and inspects some of their own nuclear sites. No U.S. inspectors are permitted to participate in any of these inspections at all.

The verification regime must become adequate and transparent, and Americans should know what the verification agreement is.

Since the JCPOA was entered into, Iranian aggression in the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere has only increased. These bad activities have only gotten worse since all of the leverage that brought the Iranians to the table was negotiated away in the JCPOA.

Iran has continued to illegally test fire intercontinental ballistic missiles and finance terror. They even seized one of our naval vessels, subsequently holding hostage and publicly embarrassing 10 American sailors.

Iran has committed to wiping Israel off the map, and they chant, "Death to America," in their streets on their holidays, all while unjustly imprisoning American citizens. They call Israel "the little Satan" and America "the great Satan." These are, unfortunately, just a few of Iran's bad activities.

It is so important to note that Iran has not only violated the spirit of the nuclear deal with its nonnuclear bad activities, it has also violated the letter of the deal. For example, Iran spins

more IR6 centrifuges than they are allowed to under the JCPOA. They have assembled more IR8 rotor assemblies than they are allowed to. They have attempted to acquire carbon fiber that they agreed that they wouldn't. They stockpiled more heavy water than they were supposed to under the JCPOA. Iran is also not allowing any inspections at all at any of their military sites. Iran is not only violating the spirit of the deal, but they are also violating the letter of the deal.

President Trump was absolutely correct to decertify the JCPOA. If Iran is serious about helping turn the JCPOA into a truly reasonable agreement, then they should make those intentions clear, both in private conversations with the United States and the other countries of the P5+1, but also in their public rhetoric. Many of Iran's other bad activities will need to cease.

If Iran does not want to save the JCPOA, then the sanctions should immediately ramp up.

Throughout this next hour, we will discuss the President's correct decision to decertify, as well as the urgent need to eliminate Iran's problematic nuclear and nonnuclear activities.

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Joining me tonight are Members of Congress from all across our great country who are deeply passionate about America's best interests and supportive of the President's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal.

At this time, it is my great pleasure to welcome the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. JOE WILSON, a leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and throughout all of Congress, who oftentimes has been to the Middle East, who is a grandson of a veteran, a son of a veteran, and a proud father of four veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership. We sincerely appreciate his leadership for American families, particularly based on his service in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1983, an otherwise peaceful Sunday morning in Beirut, Lebanon, there was, tragically, a disruption of a suicide truck bomb that crashed into the Marine Corps barracks, killing 241 courageous U.S. Marines. This was the deadliest attack, 21,000 pounds of TNT, since the U.S. Marines were in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Investigators determined that Hezbollah, an Iran-backed terrorist organization that has targeted America and our allies for decades, was responsible for the attack.

The 34th anniversary of the Beirut attack serves as a solemn reminder that we have a responsibility to defeat Hezbollah and radical Islamic terrorists across the globe, many of whom are financed by Iran, all the way from Niger to the Philippines. It is important that we defeat the terrorists over-

seas to protect American families at home.

President Donald Trump's decision to decertify the Iranian deal was correct. President Trump is protecting American families. The deal was reckless and dangerous from the start; it never served the interests of American families; and it threatened the safety and security of America and our allies in the region, from Israel to southeastern Europe, Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania.

I am grateful to join Members of the House, especially my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in promoting the fight against global terrorism. This includes tougher sanctions like those being considered by the House that target Hezbollah and its financiers in Tehran, and it includes working together with President Trump's administration that is committed to peace through strength.

I am grateful to thank Congressman LEE ZELDIN from New York, an appreciated Iraq veteran, for his leadership and for being firm with the Iranian regime, which subjugates its extraordinary people.

As the father of four sons who have served our country overseas, I want to say once again: God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WILSON for his continued leadership.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to bring up a freshman from Tennessee's Eighth Congressional district, DAVID KUSTOFF. Last Congress, I had the privilege of being both the lowest-ranking Jewish Republican in Congress and the highest-ranking Jewish Republican in Congress. But now that we have DAVID KUSTOFF from Tennessee here, we voted for each other to chair the Jewish Republican Caucus of two, and 1 day we may have a minion. These are our dreams that someday may come true.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the President's decision to decertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or what is known as the Iran deal.

This deeply-flawed Iran deal has failed to prevent the Iranian regime from ballistic missile testing and overall hostility that threatens American national security interests. Quite frankly, this was a bad idea from day one.

Most recently, on September 23, 2017, Iran test-fired a new long-range missile that could carry multiple warheads, and is the country's third test of a missile with a range of approximately 1,240 miles.

An Iranian news agency further stated how this missile "adds to Israel's misery and will be their nightmare."

As we have seen, Iran continues to be the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, and the IRGC has known connections to Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

Over these past few years, we have seen these terrorist proxy groups carry out attacks on American troops and innocent Israeli civilians. In addition, Iran has gained access to over \$100 billion in previously frozen assets, enabling the money to be funneled to various terrorist organizations.

From the frequent ballistic missile tests to supporting terrorism and funding proxies, such as Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, Iran has escalated its aggressive behavior since the deal was signed just 2 years ago.

Ultimately, this deal temporarily pushes back Iran's ability to build up its nuclear infrastructure and does not cease the Iranian regime's ambition to become nuclear after 15 years. The bad deal, therefore, ushers Iran into a nuclear club, where it can continue to test uranium pathways and pursue illicit nuclear materials, unbeknownst to the IAEA.

President Obama entered that poorly crafted agreement using unilateral executive authority, quite frankly, circumventing the consent of Congress and disregarding the will of the American people. As we have seen, this was clearly a bad deal from day one. It does not stop Iran's path to obtaining a nuclear weapon, but, rather, paves it.

As we work in Congress to implement further sanctions against the Iranian regime, we must work toward a strategy that protects our allies in the Middle East and effectively prevents Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. We must remain vigilant against those who wish to inflict harm on America, and stand united with our allies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KUSTOFF for his important, insightful words.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure at this time to introduce the gentleman from Florida's Third Congressional District. He is an important voice on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, very learned on these issues related to Iran and the Middle Eastern region especially, and a great Member here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Mr. ZELDIN and I appreciate him using that word "learned." It feels good.

You know, this is an interesting thing, because I was there during the time that John Kerry and the President were negotiating this deal.

Keep in mind, this is a deal that John Kerry and the President agreed to, but nobody signed. We didn't sign it, our Senate never voted on it, and Iran didn't sign it. So this is a deal in paper only that nobody has signed. If you

were to do any business transaction in the real world, this piece of paper would be worthless.

I want to mention words of one of our previous Presidents. It has been about 60 years after President Dwight Eisenhower announced that Atoms for Peace Program, and one lesson is clear: "Civilian nuclear programs flourish only through cooperation and openness. Secrecy and isolation typically are signs of a nuclear weapons program."

So here we are. I have in front of me the Institute for Science and International Security, August 31, 2017, and in the introduction, it says: "One of the most serious compliance issues concerns the IAEA's access to military sites and credible verification of Section T, which prohibits key nuclear weapons development activities and controls dual-use equipment potentially usable in such activities. In this report, the issue of verifying Section T is discussed. The absence of credible implementation and verification of Section T undermines the effectiveness of the JCPOA."

My colleague, Mr. ZELDIN, brought up that we know they are using IR-6 and IR-8 centrifuges. We know they have the carbon fibers that they are not supposed to have. We also know that they have overproduced heavy water more than two times. The first time, we bought it at the American taxpayers' expense. The other two times, it has gone to Russia. The only reason you would have an excess of heavy water is if you are producing nuclear fissile material.

In addition to that, the heavy water—the inspections that we are supposed to do anytime, anywhere,—John Kerry said this over and over—anytime, anywhere, that we can go, and if they are noncompliant, the sanctions will snap back. They must have used an overstretched rubber band because nothing has ever snapped back.

With the IAEA supposedly being able to inspect anywhere, there are so many places that are off limits. It is only those areas that Iran says that we can go in and inspect. Parchin military site is a place that we know they detonated a nuclear trigger. We have not been able to go in there and check the soil. Yet we have to accept their word that they are checking the soil.

I brought this up in the committee, and I am going to repeat it here. It would be like having a drug addict testing his own urine sample and taking it to the lab. It is just not the way to do business in the 21st century on something that is so important.

During that time, when we negotiated or when the deal was being negotiated, there was an intelligence report—I don't know if you were in the Congress then, but there was an intelligence report that had always had Iran as a state sponsor of terror. The year this deal was done, state sponsor of terror was taken off. And when we questioned about it, they said it was an oversight. This deal just stinks from the beginning.

John Kerry said: No deal is better than a bad deal.

This is a bad deal. The President should decertify it. It does not take us out of the deal, but it allows us to put the pressure back on Iran so that they are fully compliant with the letter of the law.

If we don't hold up people to the letter of the law as we move forward in future negotiations, i.e., North Korea, why should they follow the letter of the law?

So this is high time that we do this. I appreciate it, and I thank the gentleman for doing this.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, Congressman YOHIO brings up some very important points. The Iran nuclear deal was an unsigned political commitment. Those were the words that were given to us by the administration, and to think that we wouldn't have even asked for a signature on something so important was foolish.

The next speaker tonight in this important Special Order in support of President Trump's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal and the need to address Iran's other problematic nuclear and non-nuclear activities is a freshman from my home State of New York, someone I served with in the New York State Legislature, and we are really excited to have her here serving with us in the Halls of Congress. She has hit the ground running and is very passionate about our military, our veterans, and also especially why we are here tonight, the path forward with regards to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York's 22nd Congressional District (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Congressman ZELDIN. Obviously, we, from New York, all are so proud for his service as an Iraq veteran, and also for his leadership in serving both in the State Senate and also representing our great State in the House of Representatives on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, on October 13, President Trump made the informed decision to decertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA—or I am going to refer to it as the Iran nuclear deal—and to develop, for the first time, a holistic strategy to address the Iranian menace. I applaud this sound choice, which prioritizes the safety and security of our citizens and the American homeland.

Predictably, the flawed deal with Iran has done nothing to stem that rogue nation's aggression and misbehavior domestically, in the Middle East, and throughout the globe. Quite to the contrary, by front-loading the benefits to Iran, the Iran nuclear deal is funding these destabilizing and dangerous activities.

Human rights abuses continue against the Iranian people as citizens who dare to speak out against the oppressive regime face imprisonment or abuse. Supporters of the Iran nuclear

deal told the American people that this deal would lead to a more open Iran, with a renewed acceptance of diverse voices and opinions from within.

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Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, there have been already over 450 executions in Iran this year alone. Obviously, the so-called moderates within the regime with whom we negotiated the Iran nuclear deal either aren't as moderate as we thought or are simply irrelevant in this regime.

The American people were told further that the Iran nuclear deal would bring Iran into the fold and make the nation a more productive, contributing member of the international community.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, Iran's transgressions in the region continue to be appalling. The Iranian regime is expanding its malicious network of control through increased financial and military support for terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah and Hamas.

In Syria, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps has provided fighters and expertise to the brutal Assad regime that gases and brutalizes its own citizens. Iran has shown no signs that it is interested in pursuing peace or even curbing its malevolent behaviors. Chants of "death to America and "death to Israel" continue as Iran rapidly develops its missile program and engages in proxy conflicts with the U.S. and our allies.

I thank the President and my colleagues, as I indicated, especially Congressman LEE ZELDIN from New York, for continuing to shine the light on this important national security issue.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TENNEY for being here, for her remarks this evening, and for her leadership on this important deal.

It is my pleasure at this time to yield to Congressman ANDY BARR, who is a leader on the House Financial Services Committee. He has been very active in the efforts as it relates to sanctions. It is also important to note that it was sanctions that brought the Iranians to the table, and applied an incredible amount of economic pressure.

The Iranian regime that is in charge desperately needed relief in order to get through their next election, and now the Iranians have had an opportunity to experience life with that sanctions regime and life without it. Chairman BARR is a very important voice here in the Halls of Congress for ensuring the right leverage is on the table to deal with Iran's nuclear and non-nuclear activities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership on this issue; his voice in criticism of this flawed nuclear deal with Iran; and, of course, for his valiant service to the United States in the military.

I rise tonight in strong support of the President's decision to decertify this

deeply flawed JCPOA, the Iran nuclear deal under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. I agree with the President's finding that Iran is not transparently, not verifiably, and not fully implementing the agreement. I agree with the President's finding that continued sanctions relief is not in the vital security interest of the United States.

That is because the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran was a dangerous and historic mistake. The deal provided the mullahs in Tehran with roughly \$100 billion in upfront sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's promise, future promise, to temporarily pause its enrichment program.

Unfortunately, the agreement contained fatally deficient verification protocols and the International Atomic Energy Agency now concedes that it has no capacity to verify that Tehran is engaged in activities which could contribute to the development of a nuclear explosive device. That is because under the terms of the agreement, the very terms of the JCPOA, international inspectors are barred from accessing Iran's military sites where illicit nuclear activities are most likely taking place.

President Obama's promise that there would be "anytime, anywhere inspections," but that promise was replaced with "managed access" to suspect nuclear sites in which international inspectors must appeal to Iran, Russia, and China in a bureaucratic process that would take days during which Iran could remove anything covert and in violation of the agreement.

As Congressman ZELDIN correctly pointed out, we don't even know what the verification protocols actually are because we haven't been able to access the secret agreement between international inspectors, non-U.S. inspectors, and the leadership in Tehran.

But the most serious concern is not that Iran would cheat. It is that even if Iran is fully complying with this agreement, bad outcomes are guaranteed. First, Iran will be allowed an arsenal of nuclear weapons in as little as 10 years. Under the very terms of this agreement, Iran was not denied a nuclear weapon. The path was paved for Iran to have an arsenal of nuclear weapons with international sanction.

Iran was not required to dismantle key bomb-making technology. It was permitted to retain vast enrichment capacity, and it was allowed to continue research and development on advanced centrifuges, and it will be allowed to continue to acquire intercontinental ballistic missiles. Intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Why do you need intercontinental ballistic missiles if you have peaceful designs for your nuclear program?

Those of you who are listening at home across America, remember this: an intercontinental ballistic missile is not a missile designed for Tel Aviv. An intercontinental ballistic missile is de-

signed for New York City; for Washington, D.C.; for Atlanta, Georgia; for Los Angeles, California; and for Seattle, Washington; and for Chicago.

Our homeland security has been jeopardized because of this fatally flawed agreement. Iran will receive a sanctions relief jackpot. They have already received upwards of \$100 billion so far. In my capacity as the chairman of the subcommittee that oversees sanctions, oversees the Treasury Department's implementation of sanctions, I can say that we have heard it. We have heard the reporting that, as a result of this agreement, Iran has not become pacified. Iran has actually accelerated its support for terrorist proxies in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Nigeria. Because Iran's neighbors know that this deal reverses a decades-long bipartisan policy blocking Iran's nuclear program, this agreement continues to risk a nuclear arms race in the broader Middle East.

They are apologists. There are defenders of the Iran nuclear deal, and they say it is working. They say there is evidence of dismantling of the nuclear program, but we have the benefit of almost 2 years of implementation of the deal. We have the benefit of hindsight to see if this deal is actually working.

Here are the facts. The facts are that since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was implemented in January of 2016, Iran has continued to sponsor Hezbollah and other radical terrorist militias in the region. Its support for the Assad regime alone, including the use of planes to airlift military supplies, has helped claim an estimated 400 lives. Last April, even President Obama suggested that the Iranians were violating the spirit of the deal by engaging in these activities.

Rather than being deterred, in October, Iran sentenced three Americans to long prison terms on bogus charges. In January of this year, the country tested a ballistic missile in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution 2231. In April, just as a commercial airline manufacturer was announcing new sales to Iran as a result of the sanctions relief under the JCPOA, we learned that dozens of Syrian civilians, including at least 11 children, were gassed in an Iranian-supported chemical weapons attack.

Additionally, Iran has stated that it will no longer permit inspections of its military bases. It continues to attempt to intimidate our allies, and is facilitating the imports and exports of arms.

As of February 2017, Iran has fired as many as 14 ballistic missiles, and the leaders of Iran continue to chant "death to America," and pledge to wipe Israel off the face of the planet.

So where do we go from here?

As the chairman of the subcommittee that oversees enforcement of sanctions, we have been working on additional measures that can be taken, including non-nuclear sanctions consistent with the JCPOA to hold Iran accountable for its malign activities.

On April 4, we held a hearing on the effectiveness of non-nuclear sanctions against Iran, where we determined that Iran Air, a state-owned commercial airline, has used its aircraft to transport fighters and weapons throughout the Middle East on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp. As a result of these findings, I wrote a letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging him to ban the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran Air.

Similarly, I supported two appropriations amendments that would prevent the sale of aircraft to Iran and prohibit U.S. firms from financing such a sale.

Finally, I recently drafted a letter to the Treasury Department urging it to identify all entities it believes to have transacted business with the IRGC, a precursor to possible additional secondary sanctions.

These actions are all important and relevant in the aftermath of the President's correct decision to decertify the deal because it invites Congress to step in and offer constructive recommendations on how to address the flaws, the fatal flaws, in the JCPOA. These are some of those recommendations to the administration, and we hope the Treasury Department will respond accordingly.

Going forward, we must do the following to stem Iran's nuclear ambitions: We must designate the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization. We must make permanent the sunset clauses on Iran's nuclear program and testing. This cannot be temporary prohibition of the Iran nuclear program. This must be a permanent ban on Iran ever having nuclear weapons capability and the capability of delivering those weapons.

Finally, we need to do a better job strengthening the agreement, revising the agreement, scrapping the old agreement, and actually getting to anytime, anywhere inspections. That means we have got to work with the P5+1 and our European allies to revise the JCPOA so that we mandate anytime, anywhere inspections of nuclear facilities, and so that we are guaranteed that the IAEA, that international and U.S. inspectors have access to all suspected sites within the territorial boundaries of Iran.

In conclusion, I want to thank Congressman ZELDIN for the Special Order. I want to thank President Trump and his administration for their leadership on stopping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and for the important national security imperative of revisiting this flawed Iran nuclear deal so that we can actually achieve peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Congressman ZELDIN for his leadership in pursuing this very important objective.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. Certainly in the days, the weeks, the months that are ahead, many throughout our country will be leaning on his leadership as we discuss the path forward as far as sanctions and the right way to reestablish the leverage that

brought the Iranians to the table in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman ROKITA is a strong voice in ensuring that America has a strong but effective foreign policy, one that makes sure that our military is always set up for success, our veterans are taken care of when they come home. As I mentioned earlier, as I was introducing Congresswoman TENNEY, part of that effort, certainly is ensuring the right path forward as it relates to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), from Indiana's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding and for hosting this Special Order. In my humble opinion, the people of New York are lucky to have a gentleman like him representing them; and I know it is the highest honor of his life as well.

I also want to associate with my good friend, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), for the remarks he made. I think he has made an excellent record of not only the premise of the deal, but the effect of the deal so far.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from New York that Mr. BARR is going to be critical in leading the effort forward in sanctions, whether they are part of the JCPOA or not. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his words tonight as well.

Earlier this month, President Trump set a new direction for the United States, a direction of leadership. He made clear that we would no longer allow the Iranian Government to continue to pursue nuclear weapons, continue funding terrorism, or threaten the very existence of our great friend, Israel, the strongest ally we have in the region.

President Trump made clear that, unlike the previous administration, we will not reward Iran for chanting "death to America," and we will not allow this terrorist regime to dictate our Nation's foreign policy.

Getting the Iran deal done was the only thing the previous administration cared about. Think about that, just getting the deal done. I think we all remember that sentiment around here: getting the deal done no matter how terrible was the only thing the previous administration cared about. We had to get the deal done. We had to get the deal done, as bad as it was.

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It is unlike our current President who has demanded action to hold Iran accountable, guarantee our national security, and protect Israel and our allies across the world night and day. I appreciate the President's leadership on this and other matters.

The United States never should have signed onto the deal in the first place, Mr. Speaker, because it was a bad deal. It gave Iran immediate access to \$150 billion, it allowed the Iranians to con-

tinue their ballistic missile research, and it contains a sunset provision that will allow the Iranians to return immediately to enriching uranium without consequence.

Now, even then-Secretary of State John Kerry said: "Some of the \$150 billion will end up in the hands of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or other entities, some of which are labeled terrorists."

That was our Secretary of State's direct quote admitting that some of this \$150 billion was going to get to terrorists.

There is no situation in which the United States should allow money to get to terrorists. Hoosiers that I represent see this quite clearly. Surely, the Americans that the rest of us represent see the same thing. But then-President Obama and Secretary Kerry allowed this to happen and were cheered on, in fact, by many in this very Chamber and many in the Senate.

This year alone, Iran has tested their ballistic missiles at least three times, and they tested a rocket space launch vehicle. Now, in their most recent test in September, they used a ballistic missile with the potential range to hit Israel, the only stable democracy in the region.

As Mr. BARR pointed out, Mr. Speaker, intercontinental ballistic missiles aren't even meant for Israel. They are meant to come here. They are meant to go to our other allies—a bad deal indeed.

The threats Iran poses are truly extreme: terrorists, a nuclear arms race, and continued threats to America and its neighbors. Unfortunately, we cannot go back in time and stop then-President Obama from signing this disastrous Iran nuclear deal—and, by the way, it is signing in the theoretical sense because Mr. YOHO is also right, Mr. Speaker, when he said that this was a set of papers that truly had no signatories. It was an executive action by then-President Obama for sure. But, all in all, no matter what the semantics, it was a bad deal.

But we can—we can—move forward by creating tough sanctions like, Mr. Speaker, Mr. BARR was pointing out and making sure Iran is held accountable. That starts tonight with the work that LEE ZELDIN and other Members of Congress are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York again for yielding to me, and I thank him for his leadership. Mr. Speaker, let's get it right this time. Let's make sure Iran doesn't become the threat that the previous administration has allowed it to become.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman ROKITA for being here and for his important words as well and for all of the Members who have spoken.

I recognize House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE, Congressman PETE ROSKAM, and former Congressman, now CIA Director, Mike Pompeo. These are some of the voices during the course of these last few

years on this very important issue on the need to hold Iran accountable and to fight for the best possible agreement for the United States.

Over the course of tonight, we discussed what was in the JCPOA, and we discussed the JCPOA as far as what wasn't in it and some of the challenges that we have faced since the JCPOA has first been entered into.

We all want to deal with Iran's bad activities. We have to ask ourselves: How are we going to do that? What is the leverage that brought the Iranians to the table to negotiate the Iran nuclear deal? How do we get that leverage back?

Now, some people out there are saying that Iran is abiding by their word and that the United States would somehow be going back on our word by the President decertifying the Iran nuclear deal. We can have a discussion about what violates the spirit of the Iran nuclear deal.

We talked about Iran's other bad activities: their financing of terror, their overthrowing of foreign governments, illegally test-firing intercontinental ballistic missiles, holding Americans hostage, and publicly embarrassing American Navy sailors. We had to pay a ransom to get hostages back in January of 2016. They call Israel the Little Satan, America the Great Satan. They pledge to wipe Israel off the map. They chant "death to America." They are supporting Assad in Syria and Hezbollah.

What do we do to deal with Iran's nonnuclear bad activities? Right now we don't have the leverage to deal with that. We really needed to bring that to the table when we were sitting down with Iran last time because, when you negotiate away the leverage that brings them to the table, what is left to deal with all of those activities that we would say violate the spirit of the JCPOA?

But people say that if the President decertifies the Iran nuclear deal, then that would mean that we are going back on our word and that Iran has been abiding by the deal. We cannot forget about all of the ways that Iran is violating the letter of the JCPOA.

Why is there no accountability in debate, as we know, that Iran spins more IR-6 centrifuges than they are permitted to under the JCPOA? Why aren't we talking about that?

Why aren't we saying that Iran is not following their word when they assemble more IR-8 rotor assemblies than they are allowed to under the JCPOA?

Why aren't we saying that Iran is not following through with their word as they attempt to purchase carbon fiber that they are not allowed to try to purchase under the JCPOA?

Why are we giving Iran a free pass?

Does the President's opposition despise him so much that they are willing to literally take Iran's side when Iran says that we will never be able to inspect any of their military sites?

Before, during, and after this deal, they said that we will never be able to

inspect all their military sites. The Obama administration said we will inspect their military sites. So you have a material disagreement on this JCPOA, this Iran nuclear deal.

We said that sanctions were going to be phased in over time based on compliance. The Iranian regime said sanctions relief was going to be immediate, no suspension. But why are we not holding Iran to their word on the ways that they are violating the letter of the JCPOA?

Why is it that before implementation day when inspectors, the last time they got to Parchin and they found particles in the soil that are consistent with nuclear capability, and then after we discover those particles the Iranians say, "That is it. No more access to Parchin," why are we not saying that Iran is not following their commitments under the JCPOA? This is the letter of the JCPOA.

Now, it would be great if we can have a discussion here about what the verification regime is. I would love to read the deal between the IAEA and Iran. When I was at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing with then-Secretary of State John Kerry and I wanted to engage with him, have a conversation about what the verification agreement was, I was shocked that even he said that he hadn't read the verification regime between the IAEA and Iran. It really makes you scratch your head.

I asked the question here on the House floor last Congress while we were debating the JCPOA. President Obama says that we are entering into the JCPOA not based on trust, but based on verification. So the question that I posed then, and I still haven't gotten an answer today, is: How do you support a deal based on verification without knowing what the verification is?

We are propping up the wrong regime. In 2009, during the Green Revolution, an undemocratic election, millions of Iranians went to the streets. These are people who go to the streets that right now there are people—millions of Iranians today—who would love a free, stable, democratic Iran. After an undemocratic election, they went to the streets. We said that it was none of our business.

Fast-forward years later, we are paying ransom of \$400 million that was disputed for good reason for decades, claims going both ways. There is a reason why that money wasn't paid out. There was a dispute, multiple claims, U.S. to Iran and Iran to the United States, and \$1.3 billion of interest. They said that it wasn't a ransom. \$1.7 billion in cold, hard cash in pallets that had to get delivered at the exact same moment of the American hostages—by the way, not all of them—at the exact same moment of the American hostages being released, and we are saying that that is not ransom.

That was a coincidence that we are signing documents in the middle of

January on the same exact day within 24 hours of each other.

Now, after we provided a jackpot of sanctions relief in exchange for this very one-sided deal, there was an election. After that election in Iran, members of the American media and around the world said that this was evidence of progress in Iran that the most moderate candidates were elected.

But do you know what that completely ignores? The 12,000 most moderate candidates not being allowed access to the ballot. We are propping up the wrong regime.

After our American sailors were detained, held hostage, and embarrassed in videos and photography all around the world, we said, "Thank you." That was our response, "Thank you."

After all the concessions that were made as part of the JCPOA, our Secretary of State became president for the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, and here we are. Fast-forward to today, and everyone who wants to see this President fail will stand with Iran before they would stand with the United States. They will ignore Iran's violating the spirit of the JCPOA. They will turn a blind eye with their head in the sand over Iran's violating the letter of the JCPOA.

Mr. Speaker, we gathered here this evening to talk about the President's correct decision to decertify the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear agreement, and to talk about the need to eliminate Iran's very problematic nuclear and nonnuclear activities. We heard from a half dozen other Members of Congress: Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina's 2nd Congressional District, DAVID KUSTOFF of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, Congressman TED YOHIO of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY of New York's 22nd Congressional District, Congressman ANDY BARR of Kentucky's 6th Congressional District, and Congressman TODD ROKITA of Indiana's 4th Congressional District. I thank them, and I thank all of my colleagues for their leadership on this issue.

There is important work ahead. There really should be more Members on both sides of the aisle working together on behalf of the American people putting country first on this issue.

People since the election pledged to entirely oppose and obstruct this President on everything and anything. While the President's hand was on the Bible, the streets of the parade route were lined up with people holding up signs that said "impeach him now"—while his hand was on the Bible.

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Last November, Americans all around this country elected a President whose hand was on the Bible, yet people are calling for his impeachment just for the fact he got elected. Every day we are here, we have Members who come to the floor doing whatever they can in any way that day, that minute, to try to tear the President down.

I had disagreements with President Obama, but he was my President. We disagreed on the Iran nuclear deal. That is okay. We can disagree. We should disagree with President Trump, President Obama, President Bush before that, when we have strong philosophical differences on policy. That is what we are elected to do. We are not elected to all just come here and agree with each other.

But for those who are so set politically on trying to bring this President down, so much so that they will take Iran's side in this over the United States' side, I encourage you to rethink that and put country over party, because we need to work together as colleagues representing the greatest country in the world on a better path forward.

It is a privilege for all of us to be able to serve here in the United States Capitol in the United States Congress, because there is so much history on this floor. There is going to be much debate ahead on what challenges lie ahead for us with regard to Iran.

With servicemembers in harm's way, we understand and we reflect that that is what is most important. We should never send our troops into harm's way unless they are sent to win. We send our troops to win, or we do not send them at all. When they come home, they are treated with the love, dignity, and respect that they deserve on behalf of a very grateful nation; and with a strong, consistent foreign policy and taking care of our vets and setting up our military for success. It is having the right foreign policy with challenges that are in front of us in the Middle East and elsewhere.

That is why we are here for this Special Order hour in support of the President's decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal. Mr. President, you made the right decision. We stand with you. We stand with the United States. We want to hold Iran accountable. We want the best path forward for our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: AMERICAN IDEALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak. I want to start by saying that my colleague from North Carolina is here, and I know there is going to be a group of Members from North Carolina who are coming to address their constituents. So if you are a North Carolinian looking in on this, you have come to the right place, but you are going to have to hear me first. I am speaking on behalf of the Progressive Caucus.